

*Steve Westly*  
*California State Controller*



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## **WESTLY: CREDIT DOWNGRADE A CALAMITY FOR CALIFORNIA**

**Sacramento, July 24, 2003** – State Controller Steve Westly made this comment today following Standard & Poor’s triple downgrade of California’s credit rating.

“This is a Magnitude 10 on the Financial Richter Scale. It is unprecedented bad news that will send shock waves through the nation’s fiscal markets.

“This is a calamity for California. It will cost us \$34 million immediately and hundreds of millions over the next decade.

“An unprecedented triple downgrade to near junk bond status, for a state with the world’s sixth largest economy, is embarrassing and shameful.

“It’s a very sad day. Californians are paying a terrible penalty because of the rank partisanship that has polarized and paralyzed the Legislature.

“This is the strongest statement that Wall Street can make that we need to put partisan bickering aside and put our financial house in order. I call upon both the Senate and the Assembly to pass a compromise budget next week.

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